

Docket No.: 40128/05501

REMARKS**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****DEC 19 2006****I. INTRODUCTION**

Claims 1, 7, 8 and 14 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claim 15 had been previously cancelled. Thus, claims 1-14 remain pending in the present application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indicated allowability of claims 6, 7, 13 and 14 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable.

II. THE CLAIM OBJECTION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 5, 6 and 8 stand objected to for informalities. (See 09/19/06 Office Action, p. 2, lines 14-19). It is important to note that claims 5, 6 and 8, as originally filed, do not contain the informalities references by the Examiner. These informalities only appear in the claims of the Amendment and Response, dated August 4, 2006, and appeared to be as the result of a typographical error during the reproduction of the claims. Thus, claims 5 and 6 of the present Amendment contain the proper terms "speed" and claim 8 contains the proper term "being," as the language appears in the original application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these objections should be withdrawn.

III. THE 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,886,648 to Hata et al. ("Hata"). (See Id., p. 3, lines 15-16).

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Claim 1 is to more clearly define the structure of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. Specifically, claim 1 recites, a “drive train for a hybrid vehicle including a driving wheel; said drive train comprising: an internal combustion engine having a driving shaft; an electric motor having a driving shaft connected to the driving wheel of the vehicle; an electric generator having a rotor; a rotational speed increasing gear arrangement having a high speed portion connected to said rotor of said generator and a low speed portion; *a switching mechanism including a movable portion so mounted to said driving shaft of said internal combustion engine as to be movable between a first position where **the movable portion** interconnects said driving shaft of said engine to said low speed portion of said gear arrangement and a second position where **the movable portion** interconnects said driving shaft of said engine to both said rotor of said generator and to said driving shaft of said electric motor; wherein, a) when said switching mechanism is in said first position, the hybrid vehicle is in a series mode where said generator is operated at nominal rotation speed while said engine operates at low speed and b) when said switching mechanism is in said second position, the hybrid vehicle is in a parallel mode where said generator is operated at a rotation speed of said engine.” (Emphasis added).*

Hata relates to a planetary gear unit having a planetary carrier linked with an engine, a sun gear with a motor, and a ring gear with a motor and an axle. (See Hata, Abstract). Specifically, the disclosure according to Hata further comprises another motor and a crankshaft linked to the planetary carrier. (See Id., col. 13, lines 42-57). Regarding claim 1, the Examiner states, in essence, that the structure of Hata is identical to the recited structure of the drive train of claim 1 and that the only differences are functional. Applicant disagrees with this argumentation of the Examiner. Indeed, the structure of Hata is clearly not the same as the claimed structure where the switching mechanism is movable between two positions.

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Hata fails to teach or suggest "a switching mechanism including a movable portion so mounted to the driving shaft of said internal combustion engine," as recited in amended claim 1. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the reasons stated above, claim 1 of the present application is not anticipated by Hata, and request that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn. As claims 4 and 5 depend from, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 1, it is hereby submitted that claims 4 and 5 also allowable.

The Examiner rejected claim 8 for the same reasons as the rejection of claim 1 as anticipated by Hata. (09/19/06 Office Action, p. 3, lines 15-16). Claim 8 recites, *inter alia*, "...a switching mechanism including a movable portion so mounted to said driving shaft of said internal combustion engine as to be movable between a first position where *the movable portion* interconnects said driving shaft of said engine to said low speed portion of said gear arrangement and a second position where *the movable portion* interconnects said driving shaft of said engine to both said rotor of said generator and to said driving shaft of said electric motor." (Emphasis added). Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 8 is allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to claim 1. As claims 11 and 12 depend from, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 8, it is hereby submitted that claims 11 and 12 also allowable.

III. THE 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hata. (See *Id.*, p. 6, lines 9-10).

As discussed above, Hata does not teach or suggest all the limitations of currently amended independent claims 1 and 8. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that because claims 2 and 3 depend from, and, therefore include all the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully

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submitted that these claims are allowable for the reasons stated above with reference to claim 1. Furthermore, because claims 9 and 10 depend from, and, therefore include all the limitations of claim 8, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable for the reasons stated above with reference to claim 8.

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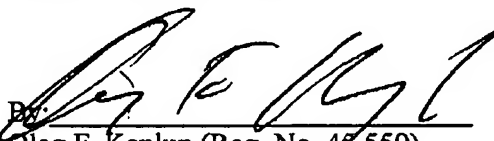
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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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